people in the waiting list in the country are likely to be provided with LPG connections in the next four/five years.

(f) and (g) No shortage of LPG cylinders in Bihar has been reported by the Oil Companies.

Money withdrawn from Oil Pool Account

613. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount withdrawn by the Ministry of Finance from the Oil Pool Account since 1985;

(b) whether the last withdrawal was of Rs. 4429 crores for the public accounts deposit;

(c) if so, whether the same has been reimbursed; and

(d) if not, the actual amount withdrawn last from the Oil Pool Account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Amount recoverable by IOC from Industry Pool Account

614. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corp. Limited has shown an amount of Rs. 3471 crores against annexure "K" under the heading Investment & Advances, for the accounting year 1995-96, as the amount recoverable from the Industry Pool Account, whereas they charged in their Profit & Loss account, net claim of Rs. 2509 crores, from the Industry Pool Account including Rs. 844 crores for the previous year;

(b) if so, what is the justification for showing an inflated amount as their net asset, whereas the net amount charged at Profit & Loss account for 1995-96 is half of figure i.e. Rs. 1665 crores;

(c) whether the recoverable pool account was investigated and audited by C.A.G.; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for accepting the figures tendered by the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) It has been reported by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited that the amount shown as recoverable from the pool account in Schedule K of the Balance Sheet Rs. 3471.28 crores and amount shown in the Income side of Profit & Loss Account under the head "Net Claims from (Surrender to) Industry Pool Accounts" Rs. 2509.37 crores are not comparable on account of the following reasons:

(1) The amount shown in the Balance Sheet includes unsettled amount carried forward from the previous year whereas the Profit & Loss account reflects the claim lodged—surrenders made during the year which may include claims for earlier years also e.g. incentive claims margin updation claims etc.

(2) There are certain transaction related to the Balance Sheet, item where claims lodged on OCC such a exchange variation differential o foreign loans taken by IOC as canalising agent which does not figur in the Profit & Loss Statement bu reflected in the Balance Sheet item.

(3) Certain claims from Oil Industr Pool Account such as demurrage c crude oil imports, L/C charges etc. ar claimed on Industry basis by IOC ar the same are not reflected in th Income side of the P&L A/c as th

same are paid and recovered and accounted under the natural heads of account.

(4) The amount shown in the Balance-Sheet reflects amount yet to be settled by OCC. It is possible that OCC balance may be negligible at the year end, if OCC is able to settle all the dues during the year.

In veiw of the above, the amount shown under Profit & Loss account and Balance Sheet cannot be related and depending upon the actual cash settlement taken place and the fund position with OCC, the outstanding balance shown in the Balance Sheet could be totally different from the amount indicated in the P&L Account.

(c) and (d) CAG has audited and reviewed the accounts of the Company in terms of Section 619(4) of Companies Act, 1956.

प्रतीक्षा-सूची में दर्ज उपभोक्ताओं को रसोई गैस कनेक्शन उपलब्ध कराया जाना

615. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
श्री रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में इस समय रसोई गैस उपभोक्ताओं की पंजीकृत संख्या कितनी है और रसोई गैस कनेक्शन हेतु कितने उपभोक्ता प्रतीक्षा सूची में हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने प्रतीक्षा-सूची में दर्ज व्यक्तियों को रसोई गैस कनेक्शन उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कोई कदम उठाया है या कोई कार्यक्रम बनाया है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज कितने व्यक्तियों को वर्ष 1997 में रसोई गैस कनेक्शन उपलब्ध करा दिया जाएगा;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि रसोई गैस वितरण व्यवस्था लगभग पूरे देश में चरमरा गयी है; यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और उसके लिए जिम्मेदार व्यक्तियों के नाम क्या हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार रसोई गैस वितरण व्यवस्था को सुव्यवस्थित करने के लिए कोई ठोस कदम उठा रही है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और सरकार इस संबंध में निर्णय को कब तक कार्यान्वित करेगी?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० आर० बालु): (क) 1.1.1997 की स्थिति के अनुसार वितरकों के पास पंजीकृत ग्राहकों की कुल संख्या और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों की प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज व्यक्तियों की कुल संख्या क्रमशः 270.45 लाख और 142.03 लाख थी।

(ख) वर्तमान ग्राहकों की मांग पूरी करने के बाद एलपीजी की उपलब्धता के आधार पर 1996-97 के लिए सरकार ने 20 लाख ग्राहकों के नए एलपीजी पंजीकरण के लक्ष्य का अनुमोदन किया है। देश में एलपीजी की उपलब्धता में वृद्धि करके आने वाले वर्षों में और नए एलपीजी ग्राहकों का पंजीकरण करने की योजनाएं बनाई गई हैं। तथापि, प्रतीक्षा सूची का प्रगामी निपटान करने के लिए प्रयास जारी है। पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में 2000—4499 फुट की ऊंचाई और 4500 फुट एमएसएल से अधिक ऊंचाई तथा ताज ट्रेपीजियम क्षेत्र में प्रतीक्षा सूची निपटाने के विशेष प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) उपर्युक्त (ग) के मद्देनजर प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Requirement of LPG in Nagpur

616. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated monthly requirement of LPG for Nagpur district in Maharashtra at present and the supply position thereof;

(b) what steps Government have taken to meet the full requirement of LPG in the district, with details thereof;

(c) whether rural areas of the districts are being neglected in supplying LPG; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The average estimated sale of